cards has been entrusted to a consultancy firm. Any action in this behalf shall be taken in receipt of the report of the feasibility study.

Repealing the Prisons Act, 1884

387. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prisons Act, 1884 has become redundant in view of the past experience after independence;

(b) whether there is a proposal before Government for repealing the century old Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what other measures Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of prisoners throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Prison is a State subject under list II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Prison Law, therefore, falls within the exclusive legislative competence of the State Governments. The Central Government has, however, circulated the Model Prisons Bill among the States/ Union territories for their views.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners, the Central Government has been providing funds to the State Governments under the Scheme of the Modernisation of Prisons Administration.

Smuggling at Indo-Nepal Border

388. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-national activities like smuggling of arms, drugs and fake currency notes have increased on Indo-Nepal borders;

(b) if so, whether the States concerned have not been able to check them;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal for a special force on the lines of ITBP to be created; and

(d) if so, whether the ex-military men would be given preference in this force?